



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

September 22, 2020

Secretary of State Katie Hobbs
1700 W. Washington St., 7th Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Secretary Hobbs,

I've received your response to my letter dated September 21, 2020, regarding the concerns raised by certified election officers about your proposed policy and procedure revisions. With respect, I'd like to address a few key components of your letter.

*You state, "The commitment of elections officials to uphold our constitution and laws is certainly crucial to the integrity of our elections, and Arizonans rightfully place great faith in their elections officials. **But** the integrity of our elections also requires a deeper commitment from elections officials: a commitment to maximize the enfranchisement of voters and to facilitate and ease the process of voting within the contours of our constitution and laws (emphasis added)."*

The responsibility of election officials to uphold our constitution and laws is not only a crucial responsibility, it should stand as the final test on whether changes to our election policies and procedures are appropriate — *no exceptions*. As our nation embarks on the next general election, the eyes of the country will be on Arizona, and the only way we can assure the electorate of the integrity of our election system is to refrain from changes in the middle of the election cycle. This isn't the time to experiment.

You also state, "You can rest assured that no one is being registered telephonically without submitting a complete voter registration form."

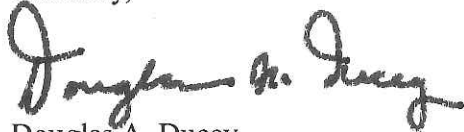
I am pleased to hear this, and I am sure the numerous county recorders who understood otherwise will be pleased as well.

Finally, you state that your office, "... worked with ADHS and members of your staff to develop guidance and recommendations on providing special election board ("SEB") assistance, including assistance aided by video conferencing technology, to voters in long term care facilities, residential care facilities, and hospitals when COVID-19 restrictions prevent SEBs from physically entering those facilities."

I appreciate the collaboration between our respective offices, however, this is simply not an accurate representation of the review your office requested from the Arizona Department of Health Services regarding the “health/safety component” of a more extensive document. Our public health officials have worked tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 response, and I am so grateful for their service — however, they are not election law experts, and do not have the authority to circumvent the legislative process or the election procedures manual process clearly defined in law.

Further, in the recent past our offices have successfully conducted changes to election procedures in coordination with the attorney general’s office in accordance with state law — the submission of a policy revision such as this, outside of the legal process and in the middle of an election cycle, will not be considered at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Douglas A. Ducey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona

CC: Mark Brnovich, Attorney General